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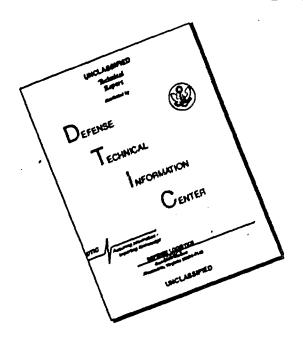
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL WASHINGTON, D.C. Last

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aGDA (M) (3 Sep 69)

FOR OT UT 692215

10 September 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 35th Engineer Group, Period Ending 30 April 1969

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- 2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

ROBERT E. LYNCH

Acting The Adjutant General

Colonel, ACC

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMY HANGELYTERS, 35TH ENCIRCIENCE CHOSTRUCTION) APO 96312

BGA-CO

30 April 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Pariod

Briding 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI).

THRU:

Commanding General 18th Engineer Brigade

ATTH: AVEC-C APC 96377

THRU:

Commanding General U. S. Army, Vietnam ATH: AVHGC(DSI) APO 96307

THRU:

Commander in Chief U. S. Army, Pacific ATTN: GPOP-DT APO 96558

TO:

Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development Department of the Army (ACSFOR-DA) Washington, D.C. 20310

FOR OTUT 692215 Inclosure

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RGS CSFOR-65 (RI)

#### 1. Section I. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. Operations. During the reporting period continuing emphasis was placed on the upgrading of major lines of communications. In carrying out the 35th Engineer Group's LOC upgrading program several major unit relocations were made. The 577th Engineer Battalian, less Company B, completed their move into the Delat area to complete the repair of Q-21A prior to the nonsoon season and to begin its upgrade. The battelion headquarters and Company A located at Don Duong, 30 kilometers east of Dalat, where Company D of the 589th Engineer Battalion has been located. Company D/589th was redesignated Company D of the 577th Engineer Battalion. Company D of the 577th Engineer Battalion moved to Dong Ba Thin in March 1969 and was redesignated Company D of the 589th Engineer Rattalion. Company B of the 577th Engineer Battalion remained in Phu Hiep with attachments to complete the upgrading of Q-1 from Port Lene to Tuy Hoa. The 864th Engineer Battalion began novement of its units along Q-21 to begin the upgrade of that highway. Company D moved from Sip Ja Song to Khanh Luong, 65 kilometers west of Ninh Hoa in February 1969. The 610th Engineer Company (CS) moved from Can Ranh Bay to Khanh Duong during March 1969 establishing a quarry and setting up their crushers and asphalt plant. Company C moved along C-21 near Buon Es The 35 kilometers west of Ninh Hos. In order to provide float bridge capability in the Com Ranh Bay area, the 553rd Engineer Company (FB) less two platoons moved from Phu Hiep to Dong Be Thin in mid February 1969. After completion of their activation and initial training, the 687th Engineer Company (LC) moved from Dong Ba Thin to Bao Loc, where they began land clearing along 4-20 from Bao Loc to the II/III GTZ border. Upon completion of this clearing, the company neved and cleared north of Bao Loc along 4-20 to Duc Trong, near the junction with 4-21A. The company continued west on 4-21A, clearing approximately five kilometers along that route, and then noved to Phan Rang for their first stand down for maintenance. At the end of the period, the 687th began the clearing along Q-11. On 15 February the 643rd Engineer Company (PC) was brought to zero strength and was lost by the 35th Engineer Group.

Though the average construction effort on LOC's dropped five percent from last period to 58% this period, less effort was expended on LOC maintenance resulting in an actual increase in the effort expended on LOC upgrading. During the period paying was initiated in four locations. The 864th Engineer Battalion started paying on G-21 westward from Ninh Hoa, completing 26.4 kilometers. In mid April the 610th Engineer Company's asphalt plant became operational and paying was started to the west from Khanh Duong in the 70th Engineer Battalion's AOR, completing 2.5 kilometers of paying. The 589th Engineer Battalion initiated paying at two locations on G-11, completing 8.5 kilometers of paying. During the period the 577th Engineer Battalion continued upgrading and paying on GL-1 from Port Lane to Tuy Hoa, completing 9.0 kilometers to MACV standards.

EGA-CO

30 April 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (ConstructionO for Period

Ending 30 April 1969, RCS USFUR-65 (RI)

A total of 46.4 kilometers of highway was paved during the reporting period in the 35th Engineer Group. During the period the 116th Engineer Battalion concentrated their efforts on the restoration of a 42 kilometer section on 4-20 from Bao Loc to the II/III CTZ border. Restoration has been completed and considerable effort has been expended in the upgrading of that section of highway, resulting in 30 kilometers of subbase completed and nearly 13 kilometers of base course completed. In addition, several kilometers of double surface treatment were completed during the later part of the period.

The level of effort expended on base construction rose slightly during the later half of the period as the construction on the bulk of projects under the MCV Get Well Program was initiated. The program incorporates 24 projects which involves the construction for the improvement of facilities for province and district MACV advisors. At the end of the period three projects were completed and 14 others were under construction. Base construction consumed on the average 28% of the construction effort. The following rajor base construction projects were completed during the period:

PROJECT	SCOPE	URIT
Tuy Hoa PAL Facility	10,500 BHL tenk form w/manifolding	577th Ingr Bn
Nha Trang AUTOSEWOOM	1000 SP of centrally air conditionen switch building	864th Engr En
Ban Me Thuot Revetments	17 UH-1 and 4 0-1 aircraft revetments	70th Engr Bn
Nha Trang Seavall for IDC TOC	207.5 LF of seawall and 2400 SF of hardstand	864th Ingr Bn
Tuy Hoa Cantomment Facilities	Billets, BOQ's, maintenance facilities, latrines and showers for 35 RM and 10 officers	577th Engr Bn
Bao Loc SEA Hut Const	34 each 16' x 32' SEA huts for 3/503 Infentry Bn	116th Engr Bn

During the period the effort expended on operational support missions averaged 13 percent. All type of support was accomplished during the period with a significant increase in land clearing as the 687th Engineer Company was employed for the first time. Their initial employment was along 4-20 where they cleared 4230 acres along the highway. An additional 175 acres were cleared along five kilometers of GL-21A and 1254 acres were cleared along GL-11 as of the end of the period with work resuming. The scope of some of the sperational support missions were larger than asymally experienced in the past. Some of the major projects completed were:

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BCA-CO
30 April 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period

Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSTOR-65 (RI)

PROJECT	LOCATION	UNIT
Construct underground timber medical bunker, 34' x 72' x 10'	Ban Me Thuot	70th Engr Bn
Construct FSB w/2 gun pads, amo racks, guard towers, living-fighting bunkers, FDC bunker, water tower, ress hall, and defensive wire	Tan My vic Phan Rang	589th Engr Bn
Construct 900 \$7 of command/living binker and 960 \$7 concrete pad for counter-mortar radar site	Nha Trang	864th Engr Bn
Construct 800 SF of counter-morter radar bunker	Ban He Thuot	70th Engr Bn
Site improvement, messhalls, wells, guard towers, and two 175 mm gun pads	vic Phan Thiet	116th Engr Bn
Improve 150 ft of airfield overrum and mark airfield	Lac Thien	70th Engr Bn
Remove ratting on G71 ramp and pave with asphalt	Nha Trang AFB	864th Engr Bn
Construct 201 high revetments around radio station	Ban Me Thuot	70th Engr Bn
Construct taxiway for 0-1 aircraft	Ban Me Thuot	70th Engr Bn
Rehab four arty gun pads	Ban Me Thuot	70th Engr Bn

Approximately one percent of effort was expended in civic action and revolutionare development. All projects were small in scope and all units were involved in their areas.

During the period HHC, 35th Engineer Group was involved in the following activities:

Operations - 82 days

Training - 7 days

EGA-CO

30 April 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Pariod
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

#### b. Activities.

- (1) Public Information Program.
- (a) General. During the reporting period, more command emphasis was placed on the information program, and a notable increase in participation was experienced. Quality and variety in news stories has improved during this period, and more articles have appeared in non-engineer publications.
  - (b) During the reporting period the Information Officer submitted:
    - 243 News Release Stories
    - 533 Hometown News Releases (DA Form 1526)
    - 198 Photographs
  - (2) Givic Action Program.
- (a) All units within the command are engaged in active Civic Action programs, but programs have been limited by a lack of supplies. Personnel are usually available but quantities of useful scrap materials are less than adequate to supply the demand. To compensate for a shortage of supplies a psychological operations fund has been established in order that units may purchase needed items from the local economy. To date the fund has only been used on one occasion, and it has been very successful.
- (b) Self-help programs seen to have been the most successful and are less taxing to the units. Only cechnical advisors and equipment operators are needed since most of the work is done by the people themselves.
  - c. Personnel and Administration.
- (1) In addition to the 589th and the 864th Engineer Battalions, the 577th Engineer Battalion was reduced under the force structure program. The Group continued to maintain all subordinate units at comparable strength levels within overall resources. A decrease of 1.0% in aggregate assigned strength from previous reporting was experienced.
  - (2) The critical MOS shortages for the 35th Engineer Group this period are:

MOS	AUTH	ASC	% FIII
51H4 (E6)	63	24	38.1
7614 <b>(E</b> 6)	35	15	42.9
12B4	176	134	70.5

EGA-CO . 30 April 1969 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

MOS		AUTH	ASG	\$ FILL
62G4		9	6	66.7
1202	•	89	59	66.7

(3) The 35th Engineer Group again experienced a high number of voluntary Foreign Service Extensions of three through six months:

OFFIGERS	WARRANT OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
0	0	206

(4) Number of awards approved for the period 1 February 1969 to 30 April 1969 were as follows:

	Pebruary	March	<u>April</u>	Total
PH	3	2	40	45
TW .	o	0	0	0
am	2	5	4	11
BS(S)	12	57	18	87
BS(V)	3	1	3	7
ACM(V)	O	0	. 0	0
ACM(S)	39	150	27	216
TOTALS	59	215	92	366

#### (5) Civilian Personnel.

A temporary restriction of hiring Local Nationals was issued this quarter. This hiring freeze has seriously hampered operations within the 35th Engineer Group. Immediately after the restriction, the 577th Engineer Battalion moved to a new location. Due to the difficulty in moving Vietnamese within Vietnam, all employees were transferred to other units or terminated. This has left the battalion without civilian labor in the new area to perform non-skilled tasks, e.g., kitchen helpers. Considering the level of military training of emlisted men with technical skills, the comparatively small wages of the Local Nationals, and the military loss due to Force Redistribution, the loss of the civilian

EGA-CO

30 April 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

manpower places an added burden on units to maintain high efficiency in all areas of their operations. Message number 55490, dated 8 April 1969, subject: Restrictions on Hiring of Army Vietnamese Employees Paid from C&MA and MCA Funds, states that there will not be a reduction in force; however, a reduction in force is occurring. As an employee terminated service for various reasons, a vacancy occurs that cannot be filled.

- (6) Reenlistment Program. More command emphasis was placed on the reenlistment program during the reporting period. Each battalion was given a full time career commelor who, in turn, was given the support of the commanders the full length of the chain of command. The results show a number of things. First, that people will reenlist in Vietnam. Secondly, information and interest are prime factors in influencing people to reenlist, and thirdly, a full time career counselor is needed at each battalion in order to publicize the necessary information to achieve the desired results. During the reporting period, the following observations were made:
- (a) Reports were given incorrectly, that is, the number of EM separated and eligible to reenlist was incorrect. It was found that significantly more EM were ineligible than had been reported eligible. This deficiency was corrected.
- (b) Of the RA 1st term reenlistments, approximately 95% of them were of the "short discharge" variety. It is possible to conclude that there are a number of advantages to reenlisting in Vietnam, and that enlisted men are being counseled on these advantages.
- (c) The number of Recap requests increased significantly. To be more specific, four Recap requests were received for the month of March while twenty were received in april. Most of our recallistments come from these requests, and this option is one of our main selling points. Again, this shows the importance of getting the information out to the men.

#### d. Safety.

The command safety program initiated last quarter is still being given strong command emphasis. However, accountable vehicular accidents have increased from 35 last quarter to 43 this quarter. Presently, the 35th Engineer Group is reviewing all safety policies and regulations for their timeliness and accuracy. Also, preparations are underway for the 35th Engineer Group Safety Month. During our Safety Month, drivers throughout the group will be retrained, personnel will be given safety orientation, and equipment and job sites will be inspected. Its purpose is to develop safety conscious personnel throughout the group.

ECA-CO
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

#### e. Morale.

The morale of personnel throughout the 35th Group is good. Worship service attendance for the January - February - March quarter of 1969 dropped during January but was steadily rising by the end of March to the 1ste of 180 men per thousand per week attendance. Catholic coverage has improved throughout the group due to the efforts and cooperation of IFFV and the CHB Support Command Catholic chaplains. We are continuing to use MACV Catholic chaplains and Local National Catholic priests in some areas with great success.

#### f. Logistics.

- (1) During the period, major effort has been continuously directed towards identification and accounting of excess or other government property not on property books. In this respect, all unserviceable or unused items of equipment on hand were a matter of concern. As the term "retrograde" seems to play a major importance in the future of each unit, proper accountability is an absolute must.
- (2) In the area of construction materials, plumbing and electrical items continue to be critical. In addition 1 inch lumber has become a critical item. Presently, AP3 and 3/4" plywood are at zero balance in depot stock. Effort at all levels is needed to get these materials into stock and maintained at sufficient balance.
- (3) Five ton trucks, bituminous distributors, water distributors and rollers of all types dominate the critical TOE shortage lists. The recent additions of the 171st Well Drilling Detachment brings the total of six well drilling rigs authorized in the group with only one rig on hand.
  - (4) The following is a list of critical TOE shortages:

NOMENCLATURE	AUTHORIZATION	<u>o/H</u>	SHORTAGE
Truck, Dump 5 Ton	359	285	74
Grane, 121 Ton	5 .	0	·. 5
Loader, Scoop	64	46	18
Semi-trailer 60 Ton	9	3	6.
Distributor Bitum	. 20	10	10
M-79 Grenade Launcher	<i>3</i> 76	310	66

EGA-CO
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

NOMENCE ATURS	AUTHORIZATION	<b>∂/</b> H	SHORTAGE
Distributor Water	27	12	15
Roller Sheepsfoot	26	19	?
Roller 71/9 50 Ton	14	7	7
Roller 13 Whl 9 Ton	19	12	7
Truck Contact	30	21	. 7
Truck Tractor 10 Ton	138	112	26
Generator 5 KW	109	31	28
Starlite Scope	57	16	41
Generator 15 KW	<b>3</b>	1	2
Tractor DTE	105	85	20
Well Drilling Rig	6	1	5

#### g. Communications.

- (1) This command has experienced difficulty with its FM communications because of terrain and increased distances between units. As a result the battalions are using retransmission units which defeats the problem of terrain and distance. Problems are arising in that the extension of the net results in interference with both the transmitting station and distance stations. The only solution at present is to work through any interference.
- (2) The Group has been issued eight (8) AN/GRC-142's. They will be a tremendous asset to the Group communications and will result in a decrease in message handling time.
- (3) All battalions presently have AN/GRC-106 radios. It is recommended that they be utilized in an S-3 AM operation net once the AN/GRC-142's become operational.

30 April 1969 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSF02-65 (RI)

- 2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.
  - 2. Personel.
  - (1) Qualified Resalistment MO's et Battalion Level.
- (a) OFSERVEYION: During the month of February and March 1969 qualified and school trained Career Commeelors were assigned down to Battalion level.
- (b) DISCUSSION: The effects of this program were not expected to resp favorable results until June of this year. However, the resultisement rates for the month of April far exceeded expectations, resulting in the 35th Group attaining 50% of the reculistments within the Brigade. The main problem but been a lack of interest and knowledge by the personnel appointed as reculistment PMOs as an additional duty. Having correct knowledge and answers to reculistment questions was the key to this program.
- (c) HECOMEDATIONS: That qualified, school trained reenlistment NCOs continue to be assigned at battalion level. That the extension of foreign service tour for the purpose of an "early out" be revised or eliminated as it is felt that it has been a hindrance on the Vietnam Beenlistment Program.
  - b. Operations.
  - (1) Required Design Information.
- (a) OBSERVATION: Not all standard sizes and lengths of steel beams are readily available in HVN.
- (b) SVALUATION: An unnecessary delay often results because structures, particularly bridges, are designed using a size and length of steel beam not available. When such a design is made, a redesign is necessary using available beams, causing a delay in construction.
- (c) RFCOMMEDATION: That USARV or 1st LOG Command publish and distribute monthly to the engineer battalion level the sizes and number of steel beams and steel piles available in RVN.
  - c. Training. None.
    - d.: Intelligence. Hore.

ECA-CO

30 April 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

- e. Logistics.
- (1) AWN Equipment Transfer.
- (a) OSSEVATION: The smoothness and efficiency which US units have exhibited a transfer of US equipment to ARVN units leave much to be desired.
- (b) EVALUATION: Equipment scheduled for transfer to ARVN must be in  $\emptyset/2$  condition and complete per the supply catalog or FSN. Time in many cases is in short supply and short suspenses must be met. Equipment in most cases has been on the job and needs a good stand down. Coordination for transportation at all levels is an absolute must. Designation for items by FSN must be correct to avoid providing the wrong item. Sometimes short suspenses are met despite shortages as transfer is directed prior to obtaining the needed components.
  - (c) RECOLLEDATION:
- (1) Establish realistic transfer dates to allow items to be readied and brought to 0/2 condition.
- (2) Righer headquarters must coordinate with Cam Ranh and Long Binh Depots to obtain needed shortages to sets or missing components, such as tools for tool kits. This has got to be a quick and efficient walk through type operation.
- . (3) Gaining clements must be sure that the FSN's they request are in fact what ARVN wants, to avoid misuse of available transportation.
- (L) Higher headquarters must arrange transportation from aerial and sea ports to transfer point for men and equipment that arrive in Long Binh from up-country. This in itself will minimize an agonizing situation at Long Binh.
  - f. Organization.
  - (1) Loss of Construction Platoon in MTOE 5-35G.
- (a) CESTWATION: The MTOE 5-350 for combat engineer battalions deletes the construction platoon with equipment from the authorized strength of the headquarters company.
- (b) FYALUATION: The requirement for vertical construction capability in Vietnam as considerable for combat battalions. Deletion of this construction plateon and the corresponding lack of construction tools, equipment, and qualified personnel hinders the vertical construction capability and effect

EGA-CO 30 April 1969 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Pariod Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

tiveness of the combat battalion.

(c) RECOILLE DATION: The construction platoon deleted in MCE 5-35G should be included in the personnel and equipment authorized the combat battalion. This would provide a capability to properly and effectively meet vertical comstruction requirements.

Other. None

1 Incl Unit Listing

Colonel. CE Commanding

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1- CO, 70th Engineer Battalion

1- CO, 116th Engineer Battalion

1- CO, 577th Engineer Battalion 1- CO, 589th Engineer Battalion

1- CO, 864th Engineer Battalion 8- 35th Engineer Croup File

AVBC-BC (30 Apr 69) 1st Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for the period ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R1)

DA, Headquarters, 18th Engineer Brigade, APO 96377 28 MAY 1969

TO: Commanding General, U.S. Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

- 1. The Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the 35th Engineer Group (Construction) has been reviewed by this headquarters and is considered to be an excellent account of the 35th Group's activities during the reporting period ending 30 April 1969.
- 2. This headquarters concurs with the observations and recommendations of the Group Commander.

J.W. MORRIS Colonel, CE Commanding

AVHGC-DST (30 Apr 69) 2d Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 15 JUL 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 35th Engineer Group (Construction).

#### 2. Comments follow:

- a. Reference item concerning "Qualified Reenlistment NCO's at Battalion Level," section II, page 10, paragraph a(1); concur. USARV is currently authorized 160 OOE's (recruiter and career counselor). Eighty-three additional 00E spaces are required to bring USARV up to the staffing recommendations of AR 601-280. An additional 300 spaces would be required to authorize one OOE in each battalion. This would be a total of over 500 OOE's in USARV. Informal coordination with Department of the Army indicates that the staffing requirements of OOE is currently under study. The merits of having a full-time career counselor in each battalion are fully recognized. Recorrend this matter be forwarded to DA for appropriate action.
- b. Reference item concerning "revision or elimination of extension of foreign service tour for the purpose of 'Early Out'," section II, page 10, paragraph a(1)(c); nonconcur. Individuals who extend for the purpose of "Early Out" are those personnel who would not normally reenlist. USARV has recently initiated an aggressive reenlistment program. Records indicate that the reenlistment rate for May is 50 percent greater than that of January. USARV does not have sufficient statistics to verify that the 150 day early release program is adversely affecting the reenlistment program. The USARV reenlistment rates have actually increased since the start of the 150 day early release program.
- c. Reference item concerning "Required Design Information," section II, page 10, paragraph b(1); concur in part. Bridge steel is of limited availability in RVN, and requisitions submitted by the constructing unit are forwarded to the USARV Engineer for validation and approval. Distribution of steel listings to engineer battalions is unneccessary, since individual battalions are not aware of country-wide construction priorities, and the availability of steel based on construction priorities. Until steel availability improves, designing units should determine the availability of steel from the USAECAV Engineering Division before design is initiated. Unit will be advised.

AVHEC-DST (30 Apr 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

- d. Reference item concerning "AHVN Equipment Transfer," section II, page 11, paragraph e(1); Nonconcur.
- (1) Transfer dates are established by MACV and information is disseminated as soon as planning data is available.
- (2) Necessary coordination and expeditions supply procedures are detailed in USARY Administration and Logistical SOP for Transfer of US Equipment Under the RVNAF Improvement and Modernization (IMM) Program, dated 31 May 69 (inclosure 3).
- (3) FSi's are provided with the equipment list forwarded with the letter of transmittal. Proper requisitioning procedures are outlined in the SOP.
- (4) Transportation procedures are also detailed in the SOP. Normal transportation requests, through TMA, with close supervision and thorough coordination should insure cargo arrives intact and on time. Unit will be advised. No further action is required.
- e. Reference item concerning "loss of Construction Platoon in MTOE 5-35G," section II, page 11, paragraph f(1). This platoon was deleted from HHC of all 12 combat engineer battalions by MTOE which were developed by the USARV Engineer staff during Phase II of the USARV Standardization Program. As all combat engineer battalions are standardized, any change to one must be equally applicable to all like units. The total space implication of the addition of the combat construction platoon (26 men X 12 battalions) is beyond the capability of USARV to accommodate at this time. If however, this recommendation is submitted as a concept letter outlining specific proposals, it will be evaluated by the USARV staff, and if determined to be a valid requirement, MTOE action may be appropriate. Unit will be advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

CPT. AGC

ASST. ADJUTANT GENERAL

Cy furn: 35th Engr Gp 18th Engr Bde GPOP-DT (30 Apr 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 35th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969,

RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 19 AUG 69

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

D. A. TUCKER

CPT. AGC

ASST AG

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10 DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT	·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
11 SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING	MILITARY ACTIV	/ITY	
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